

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY Indochina

DATE DISTR. 9 May 1952

25X1A SUBJECT Construction of an Airfield at Nguyen Binh

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(LISTED BELOW)

PLACE
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE

1. Construction work on the airfield at Nguyen Binh (105-55; 22-38)¹ was increased during March 1952. From 10 to 20 March 1952, a 40 truck convoy made nightly trips between Cao Bang (106-15; 22-40) and Nguyen Binh. These trucks transported crushed stone from a quarry near Cao Bang for use in the airfield construction. There were 1,800 laborers employed in the stone-crushing work, approximately 1,200 of whom were political prisoners. The remaining 600, who were recruited on the spot were dismissed² after 20 March 1952 and the prisoners were taken to Nguyen Binh to reinforce the airfield construction workers.
2. Work hours at the airfield have been lengthened and the two shifts are now from 5 p.m. to midnight, and from midnight to 7 a.m. The laborers, who were comparatively well fed, became under-nourished as a result of a shortage of food supplies. Many of them became sick; most of the 400 out of 2,300 who are in hospitals are affected beri-beri or with cachexia edema.
3. In addition to the regular crushed stone convoys between 10 and 20 March 1952, there were convoys transporting other materials including:
 - a. Rice, corn and dried sweet potatoes,
 - b. Digging tools,
 - c. Eight tons of explosives on 8 March 1952,
 - d. Eight trucks loaded with gasoline, and 2 trucks loaded with miscellaneous products including medicines on 16 March 1952.

Since 20 March 1952, traffic between Cao Bang and Nguyen Binh has decreased to a few trucks transporting food.

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4. The area surrounding the airfield is always very carefully guarded by the 82 Battalion, 61 Regiment of the Lien Quan Bien Canh.³

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1. Comment. For additional information on this airfield see

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2. Comment. This seems to indicate that the 600 local laborers were engaged in stone crushing and that a sufficient supply of stone was obtained by 20 March 1952 at which time the crushed stone convoys ceased.

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3. Comment. There has been no authoritative evidence that such an organization exists.

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